

STATE SENATOR • JIM BARCIA • 31ST DISTRICT

Barcia Press Release

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Barcia Applauds Job Training Grants for Thumb Auto Suppliers

(LANSING)—State Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) applauded the announcement by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm that \$75,500 in Economic Development Job Training grants had been awarded by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation through the Tuscola Intermediate School District to 4 automotive part suppliers in Huron and Tuscola Counties. The grants will be used to improve job skills for 83 existing workers and 48 new hires at Berkley Industries in Bay Port (\$12,500), Cass Valley Enterprises in Vassar (\$10,000), Kaumagraph Flint Corporation in Millington (\$28,000) and Millennium Industries in Cass City (\$25,000).

“With global competition pushing companies to seek out cheaper and cheaper labor, it is critical that our workers maintain a competitive edge over overseas competition,” said Barcia. “These grants will help 4 local companies stay current with state of the art training in advanced automotive manufacturing and keep their operations thriving right here in Michigan.”

An outspoken critic of free trade agreements that have cost Michigan hundreds of thousands of jobs in the manufacturing sector, Barcia has worked closely with the MEDC to encourage investment in the Thumb and mitigate the harmful effects of this poor national trade policy. Since returning to the Michigan Senate in 2003, Barcia has helped secure millions of dollars in grants for local communities and businesses to provide services like job training and infrastructure improvements that create and retain good jobs.

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